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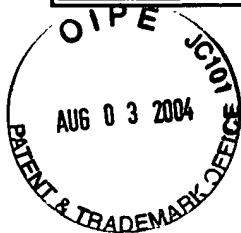
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: July 29, 2004

Signature:

Rebecca McElroy
(Rebecca McElroy)

Docket No.: 219002025213
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

J. Jeffery SEILHAMER et al.

Application No.: 09/902,517

Filed: July 9, 2001

For: IMMUNOASSAYS FOR HUMAN BRAIN
NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE (As Amended)

Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: J. Epps-Ford

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action herein, mailed 2 April 2004, time for response to which was set to expire 2 July 2004. A one-month extension of time is enclosed. Applicants greatly appreciate the withdrawal of rejections previously made over the art. The sole outstanding basis for rejection is under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for asserted lack of written description and for asserted new matter. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection as presented, and the following amendment and discussion are offered in response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.